Iamze Alekseevna Toidze

Soviet Georgian Psychologist and Researcher of the Theory of Set

Iamze Alekseevna Toidze was a Soviet Georgian psychologist associated with the scientific tradition of Dmitri Uznadze and the Georgian school of psychology in Tbilisi, Georgia. Her work focused on perception, sensory sensitivity, and the psychological theory of "set" (ustanovka), one of the central concepts of twentieth-century Soviet psychology.

Toidze conducted experimental psychological research during the 1960s–1970s within the intellectual environment of Soviet Georgian psychology. Her studies examined how unconscious psychological orientation, expectation, and perceptual readiness influence sensory perception and reduce perceptual thresholds.

A confirmed bibliographic record exists for her dissertation:

"An Experimental Study of Primary Set"
Candidate Dissertation in Psychology (1974)

This research investigated the phenomenon of primary psychological set and perceptual preparedness through experimental methods. Her work formed part of the broader scientific direction established by Dmitri Uznadze and later developed within Soviet cognitive and personality psychology.

Scientific Work and Research Areas

theory of psychological set (Uznadze school) experimental psychology perception and sensory thresholds cognitive readiness and expectation psychophysiology of perception

Her research explored how unconscious preparatory states influence human sensory processing. In particular, she studied how expectation and preliminary psychological orientation could lower perceptual thresholds and increase sensitivity to incoming stimuli.

Mentions in Soviet Scientific Literature

Toidze's experimental findings concerning perceptual sensitivity and psychological expectation were referenced in Soviet discussions of sensory psychology and perceptual orientation.

Research connected with her work was reportedly discussed in the popular-scientific book *How We See What We See* by Vyacheslav Demidov, especially in contexts related to perception, readiness, and psychological set.

Her scientific direction was also closely related to the broader intellectual tradition that later influenced Soviet and Russian psychologists including Alexander G. Asmolov.

Historical and Scientific Context

The Georgian psychological school founded by Dmitri Uznadze became one of the most influential psychological traditions in the Soviet Union. It centered on the concept of set — an unconscious state of readiness affecting perception, cognition, and behavior.

Iamze Toidze appears to have worked within the experimental branch of this tradition, particularly in studies involving perceptual orientation and primary set. Her research contributed to Soviet understandings of expectation, cognition,

and sensory processing.

Historical Importance

Iamze Alekseevna Toidze belongs to a generation of Soviet Georgian researchers whose scientific legacy became partially inaccessible after the dissolution of the USSR, when many regional archives, dissertation catalogs, and institutional collections remained undigitized.

Legacy

Today, Iamze Alekseevna Toidze represents a largely forgotten yet historically significant figure in Soviet Georgian experimental psychology. The surviving references to her work reflect the broader intellectual legacy of the Uznadze school and the contribution of Georgian researchers to twentieth-century cognitive and perceptual science.